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HORWICH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,
For Year Ended 31st, December, 1925.

J. S. SEWELL, M.D.,
M. O. H.



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HORWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORT

For the Year ending 31st December, 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Horwich Urban District Council.

“Gentlemen,

I beg to present my 18th Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1925.

In previous reports I have stated the characteristics of what are termed “Survey Reports and what are termed “Ordinary” Reports. The Minister of Health intimated in paragraph 13 of Circular 540 of the 18th December, 1924, that the Annual Report of the Medical officer of Health for 1925 would be a “Survey Report.” In accordance with these instructions the present report will thus be of this character. I shall deal with :

- (a) The measure of progress made in the area during the preceding 5 years in the improvement of the public health.
- (b) The extent and character of the changes made during that period in the public health services of the area, e.g. housing, water supply, sewerage, scavenging and refuse disposal, food inspection or other services affecting the environment of the inhabitants; and maternity and child welfare schemes, schemes for the treatment of tuberculosis and venereal diseases, provision of isolation hospitals, or other services directed to the prevention or cure of diseases in individuals.

- (c) Any further action of importance in the organisation or development of public health services contemplated by the Local Authority or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (Acres), 3257.

Population, Census 1921, 15616. Estimated 1925, 16110.

Physical features and general characters of the area:—The town of Horwich is pleasantly situated at an average height of 500 feet above sea level. The gently undulating character of the ground favours natural drainage. The town is sheltered from the North and North-East winds by Rivington Pike (1190 feet) and adjoining hills. Whilst therefore we are usually protected from severe wintry conditions the near proximity of the hills and the prevalence of South-Westerly winds gives us an uncomfortable number of rainy days. The subsoil is chiefly clayey.

Number of inhabited houses 1921, 3703.

Number of families or separate occupiers, 1921, 3791.

Ratable Value, £79,976 9s.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £310.

Social Conditions:—The chief industry in the district is the engineering works of the London Midland & Scottish Railway. Other occupations of the inhabitants are bleaching, spinning, weaving, the manufacturing of sanitary ware, and a small amount of mining and quarrying. Speaking generally work is carried out under hygienic conditions.

Poor Law Relief is in the hands of the Bolton Board of Guardians. Surgical relief is obtained at the Bolton Infirmary and Manchester Hospitals.

With the exception of an epidemic of Diphtheria referred to under "Infectious Diseases" there has been no special incidence of sickness during the period under review.

Vital Statistics.—

The population of the Urban District Council of Horwich for 1925 as estimated by the Registrar General is 16110. This estimate of population now provided has been based on the 1921 figures after allowance for the varying rates of natural increase as evidenced by the births and deaths in the area, and of migration as indicated from the sources of information such as the changes in the numbers on the Electoral Register and the migration returns obtained by the Board of Trade, and is supplied only for use in Vital Statistics.

| | Total. | Male | Female. |
|---------------------|--------|------|---------|
| Births in 1925..... | 252 | 136 | 116 |
| Deaths in 1925..... | 162 | 81 | 81 |

Rates per 1,000 of Population.

| Birth Rate | Death Rate | Death Rate from Tuberculosis of respiratory system | Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births |
|------------|------------|--|---|
|------------|------------|--|---|

Mean of 5 years

| | | | | |
|-----------------|------|-------|------|-----|
| 1895-1899 | 34·9 | 15·9 | 0·67 | 159 |
| 1900-1904 | 31·2 | 14·6 | 0·55 | 132 |
| 1905-1909 | 25·9 | 12·2 | 0·64 | 124 |
| 1910-1914 | 22·0 | 11·7 | 0·84 | 100 |
| 1915-1919 | 16·3 | 12·2 | 0·82 | 75 |
| 1920-1924 | 17·7 | 11·3 | 0·71 | 81 |
| Year 1924 | 15·9 | 11·0 | 0·62 | 82 |
| 1925 | 15·6 | *10·0 | 0·49 | 51 |

Increase or decrease in
1925 on Mean of 5 years

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------|--------|------|
| 1920-1924 | — 2·1 | — 1·3 | — 0·22 | — 30 |
| Previous year..... | — 0·3 | — 1·0 | — 0·13 | — 31 |

* Standardizing factor 1·050 ; corrected death-rate = 10·5 per 1000.

| In Horwich Urban District 1925. | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Causes of Death. | Males. | Females. |
| ALL CAUSES | 81 | 81 |

| | | |
|--|----|----|
| Measles | 2 | 1 |
| Scarlet Fever | 1 | 1 |
| Whooping Cough... .. | 1 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | 1 | 0 |
| Influenza... .. | 1 | 2 |
| Encephalitis Lethargica ... | 1 | 0 |
| Tuberculosis of respiratory system | 5 | 3 |
| Other Tuberculous Dis. ... | 1 | 4 |
| Cancer, Malignant Dis. ... | 12 | 12 |
| Diabetes | 1 | 1 |
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage &c.. | 6 | 2 |
| Heart Disease | 14 | 13 |
| Arterio-sclerosis | 3 | 6 |
| Bronchitis | 4 | 8 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) ... | 6 | 4 |
| Other Respiratory Dis. ... | 1 | 1 |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum | 1 | 0 |
| Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) | 2 | 0 |
| Appendicitis and Typhlitis | 1 | 1 |
| Acute and chronic nephritis | 2 | 9 |
| Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition | 0 | 1 |
| Congenital Debility &c.... | 1 | 1 |
| Suicide | 1 | 1 |
| Violence, apart from suicide | 4 | 0 |
| Other Defined Diseases ... | 9 | 10 |

| | | |
|--|----|---|
| Deaths of infants under 1 year | 11 | 2 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | 1 |

| | | |
|---------------------|-----|---------|
| Total Births | 136 | 116 |
| Legitimate | 131 | 113 |
| Illegitimate | 5 | 3 |
| Population... .. | | 16,110. |

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, and ANALYSIS of MORTALITY during the Year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated in the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

| | BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION. | ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION. | | | | | | | | | RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS. | | | PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS. | | |
|--|--|---|----------------|------------|----------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | | All Causes. | Enteric Fever. | Small-pox. | Measles. | Scarlet Fever. | Whooping Cough. | Diphtheria. | Influenza | Violence. | Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years). | Total Deaths under One Year. | Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners. | Inquest Cases. | Uncertified Causes of Death. | |
| England and Wales ... | 18.3 | 12.2 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.13 | 0.03 | 0.15 | 0.07 | 0.32 | 0.47 | 8.4 | 75 | 92.1 | 6.9 | 1.0 | |
| 105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London. | 18.8 | 12.2 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.17 | 0.03 | 0.18 | 0.09 | 0.30 | 0.43 | 10.8 | 79 | 92.1 | 7.3 | 0.6 | |
| 157 Smaller Towns (1921 Ad.Pop. 20,000 -50,000) | 18.3 | 11.2 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.15 | 0.02 | 0.14 | 0.06 | 0.31 | 0.38 | 7.6 | 74 | 93.0 | 5.9 | 1.1 | |
| London ... | 18.0 | 11.7 | 0.01 | 00.0 | 0.08 | 0.02 | 0.19 | 0.11 | 0.23 | 0.46 | 10.6 | 67 | 91.1 | 8.9 | 0.0 | |

Standardizing factors for correcting the death rates have been calculated for each Urban and Rural District with a population of 10,000 or over at the last Census. Similar factors have not been calculated for areas with less than 10,000 population. The factor for Horwich is 1.050. The factors for Boroughs and Urban Districts is usually above unity whilst those for Rural Districts is usually below.

The above figures for the past 30 years, calculated in periods of 5 years are of great interest and deserve very careful study. It will be noticed that the birth rate has been halved. The general death rate and the Infantile rate show a steady decline whilst the death rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System shows little change.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.—(1) Tuberculosis nil; (2) Maternity, the Haslam Maternity Home, Bolton takes in cases at an inclusive charge of £4 4s. per week. The Council contribute towards cost according to a local scale of income. (3) Children nil. 4.—*Fever.* Fall Birch Hospital Horwich, conjoint for Horwich, Westhoughton and Blackrod. 48 beds for the three districts. 5.—*Small Pox.* Bury and District Hospital. 6. *Puerperal Fever.*—Bury and District Hospital.

Apart from the arrangements with the Haslam Maternity Home there is no provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the district.

Ambulance facilities.—(a) For infectious cases, Motor Ambulance at Fall Birch Hospital. (b) For non-infectious and accident cases, Motor Ambulance provided by the Horwich Urban District Council.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—

| Name and Situation. | Accommodation. | By whom Provided. |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Horwich Maternity and Child Welfare Centre Public Hall | 5 rooms | District Council |
| New Chapel Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, New Chapel | 3 rooms | District Council |
| Horwich School Clinic Public Hall | 2 of the 5 rooms at Public Hall | County Council |
| Horwich Dental Clinic Public Hall | Same rooms as School Clinic | County Council |
| Horwich Orthopædic Clinic, Public Hall | do. | do. |
| Horwich Ophthalmic Clinic, Public Hall | do. | do. |

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.—

The Sanitary Staff consists of a Medical Officer of Health (part time), Sanitary Inspector, two Health Visitors and lady clerk.

Half salary of Medical Officer of Health, Sanitary Inspector, and Health Visitors paid by Ministry of Health.

The Medical Officer of Health also acts as Medical Officer to the Horwich and New Chapel Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, and has the care of the antenatal work recently begun at the Horwich Centre. The Sanitary Inspector holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for inspection of meat and other foods. Both Health Visitors are fully trained nurses having the three years' certificate. In addition both hold the C.M.B.

*Professional Nursing in the Home.—(a) General.—*By the Horwich District Nurse's Association, a purely voluntary body.

*(b).—Infectious Diseases, etc.—*Two nurses appointed by the Council in addition to Infant Welfare work nurse cases of Measles, Whooping Cough, Pneumonia, Ophthalmia.

*Midwives.—*Council do not provide or subsidise midwives. Six midwives practise in the district.

Chemical Work :

Bacteriological and chemical specimens are submitted to the pathological laboratory of the Victoria University, Manchester, for examination. During 1925, 28 swabs were examined for Diphtheria, 4 of which were positive. 39 examinations of Sputa were made for Tubercle Bacilli, 8 being returned positive. No blood examinations were required. During the period 1921 to 1925 the following is a record of the examinations.

| Year | No. of Throat | | | Blood | | | Spnta | | |
|-------|---------------|------|------|--------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| | Swabs | Pos. | Neg. | Exams. | Pos. | Neg. | | Pos. | Neg. |
| 1921 | 150 | 43 | 107 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 24 | 5 | 19 |
| 1922 | 111 | 34 | 77 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 26 | 5 | 21 |
| 1923 | 78 | 12 | 66 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 7 | 17 |
| 1924 | 43 | 5 | 38 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 4 | 34 |
| 1925 | 28 | 4 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 39 | 8 | 31 |
| Total | 410 | 98 | 312 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 151 | 29 | 122 |

Legislation in Force :

The following is a list of Local Acts, Special Local Orders, General Adoptive Acts and Bye-laws relating to the public health in force in the area :

| Local Act, etc. | | | Date of Adoption. |
|--|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Public Health Act Amendment Act | ... | ... | 1890, part |
| Public Health Act Amendment Act | ... | ... | 1907, part |
| Infectious Diseases Prevention Act... | ... | ... | 1890, part |
| Local Order for Notification of Measles and Whooping Cough | ... | ... | 1920 |
| Bye-laws with respect to Nuisances | ... | ... | July 6th, 1886 |
| „ „ „ Streets & Buildings.. | ... | ... | July 6th, 1886 |
| „ „ „ Slaughter Houses | ... | ... | July 6th, 1886 |
| „ „ „ Com. Lodging Houses | ... | ... | July 6th, 1886 |
| „ „ „ Paving of Yards and Open Spaces... | ... | ... | Jan. 21st, 1893 |
| „ „ „ Regulation Water Supply... | ... | ... | Feb. 6th, 1901 |
| „ „ „ Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops... | ... | ... | Apr. 3rd, 1907 |

Close co-operation is maintained with the Medical Officers in charge of the County Council Clinics and the happiest relations exist between us. A similar state of affairs exists with the Tuberculosis Authorities.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—The chief water supply of the district is from the Council moorland gathering ground on Wildersmoor. A smaller amount is obtained from tunnels at Montcliffe Colliery. On October 17th, 1925 a new pumping station was opened at Tup Row which gives an additional supply of 192,000 gallons per day.

The quality of the supply as shewn by analysis is satisfactory and there would appear to be an ample supply for the present needs of the district. With the exception of a few outlying farms and cottages the whole population is supplied directly to their houses from the works.

There has been no pollution.

The following is an analysis of the Horwich water made by the County Analyst :

“I have analysed the two samples of water received from Inspector Brocklehurst, on the 10th day of February, 1926, with the following results expressed in parts per 100,000.

| Mark or denomination of Sample. | (1) From Borehole. | (2) From house-tap. |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| Total Solids in Solution | 39·2 | 17·2 |
| Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 15 min. | ·010 | ·048 |
| Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 3 hrs.. | ·014 | ·092 |
| Ammonia | ·008 | ·003 |
| Albuminoid Ammonia.. | .003 | ·005 |
| Nitrogen as Nitrates ... | Nil. | ·10 |
| „ Nitrites ... | trace | slight trace |
| Combined Chlorine ... | 1·5 | 1·5 |

G. D. ELSDON,
County Analyst.

Rivers and Streams.—The completion in 1921 of the paving of Purl Brook abolished a nuisance which had been in existence for many years.

Drainage and Sewerage.—In 1922 the Council undertook an extension of their sewers to Factory Hill, Brinks and Harts Houses district, thus with the exception of a few outlying farms and cottages the whole district is now efficiently drained into the Council's sewers. The sewage is carried to the Council's sewage works at Blackrod where it receives treatment by septic tanks and bacterial filtration on percolating filter beds. Owing to the increase in material to be treated an extension at the sewage works is at present under consideration. The sludge cake extracted from the sewage is sold to the farmers for manurial purposes.

Closet Accommodation:—There are 2991 Fresh Water Closets, 1207 Waste Water Closets, 68 Pail Closets and 39 Privy Middens now existing in the district.

As a result of the Council's decision to abolish all ashpits and to provide the first dust bin free of charge it is hoped that this abomination will soon be a relic of the past. During 1925, 24 ashpits disappeared.

Scavenging:—This is efficiently carried out by the Council's workmen. During 1925, 49 privies and ashpits, 3780 pails and 193,032 dustbins have been emptied, making 4424 tons of refuse removed, of which the greater portion has been conveyed to Red Moss, and an additional area has been reclaimed for cultivation.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area:—Inspections have been regularly and specially made throughout the district. The following is a classified statement of the number of inspections and re-inspections made during 1925 :

Houses and premises, 221 ; Slaughter Houses, Butchers' Shops, etc., 847 ; Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops, 105 ; Fried Fish and Chip Shops, etc., 14 ; Ice Cream Shops, 13 ; Schools 30 ; Waterworks, 5 ; Sewage Works, 2 ; Hospitals, 6 ; Garages and Stables, 52 ; Water Closets, Privies, Urinals, Ashpits, Pail Closets, Drains, Gullies, etc., 890 ; Yards, and Streets, 166 ; Red Moss, 42 ; Factories, 12 ; Workshops, Workplaces, and Bakehouses, 94 ; Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis), 99 ; Market, 72 ; Miscellaneous, 111.

There have been 15,467 gullies and 9,376 water closets flushed and disinfected.

The following is a summary of the abated nuisances and the necessary actions to remedy them :

| | |
|--|-----|
| Defects to drains, closets, and waste water pipes made good | 461 |
| Repairs to yard walls, doors, ashpits, privies, and pail closets | 34 |
| Repairs to windows | 6 |
| New water closets provided | 2 |
| New Drainage System | 3 |
| Waste Water Closets abolished.. | 2 |
| New dust bins provided | 132 |
| New and improved gullies, tops, and new slop pipes provided | 50 |
| Poultry cleared out of yards | 1 |
| General repairs including yard surfaces | 20 |
| Defective roofs, spouting, and rain water pipes made good... | 32 |

There have been 733 informal notices served. I find that 659 have been complied with, 74 not yet complied with. 23 Statutory Notices have been served and 23 have been complied with. The majority of notices not complied with at the end of 1925 will receive attention in 1926.

Smoke Abatement :—Council devoting attention with the the result that greater care is being taken by owners. Fifteen observations have been made but no legal proceedings have been necessary. The time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke is five minutes in the half hour.

*Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by
Byelaws and Regulations.—*

These are :—No common lodging houses in the district.

Bakehouses : —22 in number ; condition satisfactory.

Slaughter Houses :—Total 3; 1 registered 2 licensed. These are visited both at times of slaughtering and at other times. Regulations are being adhered to.

Supervision is also maintained over Chip and Fish and Ice Cream premises.

Other Sanitary conditions requiring notice :— The Council having abolished all privies and ashpits the next step to contemplate is the abolition of the waste water closets and the substitution of the fresh water system.

Schools :— These were regularly inspected and found to continue in a sanitary condition. Close co-operation has been maintained with the School Medical Officer, School Attendance Officer and the teaching staff. A thorough disinfection is carried out whenever infectious disease has shewn a special incidence in an individual school.

It has not been found necessary to close any school during the period under review.

HOUSING.

1. *General Housing conditions in the area :—*

(i) General shortage, chiefly of three bedroomed type.

(ii) Like most towns there is a great shortage of houses to which I have referred in previous reports. The extent of the shortage is difficult to gauge. The Council have 450 applicants for houses on their list. To meet this shortage the Council have erected 120 houses on the Lower Brazley Estate, 18 in Mason Street and 68 houses are in course of erection on the Hilton Estate. The Council have had under consideration the erection of houses by direct labour and by private enterprise, and ultimately decided to build 206 more houses and since the advent of 1926 tenders have been let for these.

2. *Overcrowding :—*

(i) Extent. Council as stated above have 450 applicants for houses on their list but probably not more than half of these are at present living in overcrowded conditions.

(ii) Causes. Shortage is the main cause. Houses have not been built sufficiently rapidly during the war and post war periods to supply the needs of newly married couples.

(iii) Council are building houses as rapidly as possible and endeavour to deal with the worst cases first.

- (iv) Owing to the shortage it has been a difficult problem to deal with cases of overcrowding. The Council are endeavouring to allot the new houses to tenants who are living in such circumstances.

3. *Fitness of Houses* :—

(i) The general standard of Housing in Horwich is only moderate, but there is an absence of slum areas and houses of the worst type. Dampness, defective walls roofs and fittings are the defects usually found in unfit houses.

The defects are due both to lack of proper management and supervision by owners and to acts of neglect by tenants.

(ii) Most repairs are carried out after informal notices. Where owners are obstinate a statutory notice is usually served under the Public Health Acts. Only 3 notices have been served under the Housing Acts.

(iii) The difficulties found in remedying unfitness have been few. Absentee owners and agents have been asked to visit the property more often and tenants have been interviewed at frequent intervals. When agreed arrangements as to the carrying out of repairs have not been fulfilled proceedings are threatened.

With regard to back to back houses whilst the acute shortage exists it has not been considered desirable to take action at present.

(iv) Except the outlying farms all houses receive their water from the town's supply. The closet accommodation consists of fresh water closets and waste water closets. Galvanized iron dust bins with covers are used for Refuse Removal, the removal being done weekly. All new houses are being provided with the town's water supply, fresh water closets and dust bins.

4. There are no unhealthy areas in Horwich.

5. Bye-laws as to houses are being adhered to. There are no bye-laws controlling houses let in lodgings, tents, vans and sheds. These will be controlled under the Public Health Act, 1925.

6. The Council employ a man to regularly flush gullies, drains and water closets and he gives advice as to the management of fittings where necessary.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (a) | Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 51 |
| (b) | With State assistance under the Housing Acts. | | | | | | | |
| | (i) | By the Local Authority | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| | (ii) | By other bodies or persons | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33 |

1. *Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

Inspection.

- (i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 157
- (ii) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, and the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ... 49
- (iii) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... none
- (iv) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 157

2. *Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notice.*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 135

3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A. *Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.—*

- (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 3
- (ii) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.
- (a) by owners 3
- (b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...none
- (iii) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to closenone

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.—

- (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 19
- (ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices
- (a) by owners 19
- (b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...none

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 15 and 15 of the Housing, Act, 1925.—

- (i) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.none
- (ii) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made... ..none
- (iii) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit.none
- (iv) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 2
- (v) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 2

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

A. Milk Supply :—

In my report for the year 1919 I drew the Council's attention to the final report of the Departmental Committee on the production and distribution of milk and detailed some of its recommendations. The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the various Dairies, Cowshed and Milkshop Orders are being observed in your district. Whilst perhaps according to present standards the dairies, cowsheds, and milk vessels are kept in a fair sanitary condition, and the wholesomeness of the milk is up to an average standard, I feel that a drastic re-organisation and improvement in our methods of production and distribution of milk are one of the most pressing needs of the day. The day I trust is not far off when all milk will be obtained from Tuberculosis free herds and will be bottled on the farms. The usual distribution of milk by means of float and kit allows many opportunities of contamination. Failing this ideal method it would be better to have all milk pasteurised.

No action has been taken with regard to Tuberculous milk and Tuberculous cattle.

One bacteriological examination of a sample of milk was made when the Bacteria per C.C. were found to be 45,000.

B. Meat :—

Butchers advise Meat Inspector as to times of slaughtering. The Inspector visits at these and other times. Butchers' shops and public market are also visited. Carcases found diseased are surrendered and destroyed at Red Moss.

During 1925, 5 carcases of beef, 1 pig and offal have been condemned for Tuberculosis. 3 sheep and offal have also been destroyed. The total weight of carcases and parts condemned is 3461 lbs. The Council should again consider the advisability of providing a public abattoir.

The following is the number of private slaughter houses in use in the area at the dates mentioned :

| | In 1920 | In January, 1925 | In December, 1925 |
|------------|---------|------------------|-------------------|
| Registered | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Licensed | 2 | 2 | 2 |

C. Other Foods :—

It may be stated under this heading that there is shewn a desire by occupiers to comply with the requirements. Special attention is directed to the storage of foods and disposal of waste matter.

D.—There have not been any cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

E. Sale of Food and Drugs Act :—

Four samples of milk have been taken, all of which were genuine.

F. Milk and Cream Regulations 1912 and 1917 :—

No action taken.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious diseases generally :—

The following table shews the prevalence of infectious diseases since 1920 ;

Notifiable Diseases during the period 1921-1925.

| Disease | 1921 | 1922 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 | Total. |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|
| Smallpox | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | 96 | 69 | 26 | 9 | 9 | 209 |
| Scarlet Fever | 24 | 92 | 31 | 23 | 87 | 257 |
| Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Puerperal Fever | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Measles | 28 | 324 | 22 | 86 | 377 | 837 |
| Whooping Cough | 0 | 47 | 20 | 14 | 31 | 112 |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Pneumonia | 62 | 87 | 64 | 48 | 63 | 324 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 11 |
| Tuberculosis Pulmonary | 16 | 14 | 13 | 11 | 17 | 71 |
| Tuberculosis (other) | 11 | 22 | 23 | 19 | 16 | 91 |

With the exception of an epidemic of Diphtheria during the years 1921, 1922 and 1923 there has been no great prevalence of infectious disease. The difficulty in suppressing the above epidemic was undoubtedly due to a number of "carriers." Close co-operation with the School Medical Officer was maintained. A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept at the Public Hall, and is supplied free of charge to Medical Practitioners and is promptly used as occasion requires.

There has been no special occurrence of cases of encephalitis lethargica. "Return" cases of scarlet fever shew a tendency to decrease in number. Pneumonia has averaged about 65 cases a year. No cases of Malaria, Dysentery or Trench Fever have been notified.

The arrangements made for the examination of pathological and chemical specimens have been dealt with earlier in the report. "Contacts" of all infectious cases are kept under observation. "Return" cases are dealt with by isolating the original case again at home and particular attention is paid to any discharges which may exist. "Carrier" cases receive attention to the throat and are isolated as far as possible until swabs are negative.

Most cases of infectious disease are isolated at the Fall Birch Hospital and the apparatus at that hospital is available for the disinfection of clothing, bedding, etc. Houses are disinfected with Sulphur and Formalin Lamps and sprayed with Formalin.

No use has yet been made of the Schick and Dick tests.

No Vaccinations have been performed under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulation 1917.

In 1920 a local order for the notification of measles and Whooping Cough was adopted in Horwich. Whereas notification probably does not greatly lessen the incidence of the disease it enables the health visitors to see that the cases are efficiently treated and nursed, thus reducing the mortality.

There have been 33 deaths from Influenza during the period under review, 3 occurring in 1925.

There are no arrangements in the district for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1925.

| Disease | Total Cases notified | Cases admitted to Hospital | Total Deaths |
|---|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Small Pox | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scarlet Fever..... | 87 | 78 | 2 |
| Diphtheria | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| Enteric Fever including Paratyphoid ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Erysipelas | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Puerperal Fever | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Pneumonia..... | 63 | 0 | 10 |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Measles | 377 | 0 | 3 |
| Whooping Cough | 31 | 0 | 1 |
| Chicken Pox..... | 139 | 0 | 0 |

Analysis of cases under age groups.

| Disease | Total | under | | | | | | | | | | | over | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|--|
| | | 1 | 1—2 | 2—3 | 3—4 | 4—5 | 5—10 | 10—15 | 15—20 | 20—35 | 35—45 | 45—65 | | |
| Scarlet Fever. | 87 | | | | 3 | 1 | 39 | 34 | 4 | 6 | | | | |
| Diphtheria ... | 9 | | | | 1 | | 5 | | 2 | 1 | | | | |
| Enteric Fever | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Puerperal Fever | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Pneumonia... | 63 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 3 | | 6 | 5 | 7 | 5 | |
| Encephalitis | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lethargica ... | 3 | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | | |
| Measles | 377 | 8 | 22 | 23 | 47 | 82 | 165 | 23 | 4 | 3 | | | | |
| Whooping C. | 31 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 17 | | | | | | | |
| Chicken Pox. | 139 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 7 | 20 | 86 | 3 | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas..... | 6 | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 3 | | |
| Totals | 716 | 17 | 38 | 43 | 71 | 111 | 321 | 63 | 10 | 20 | 6 | 11 | 5 | |

Analysis of Deaths under age Groups.

| Disease | Total | under | | | | | | | | | | | over | |
|------------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|--|
| | | 1 | 1—2 | 2—3 | 3—4 | 4—5 | 5—10 | 10—15 | 15—20 | 20—35 | 35—45 | 45—65 | | |
| Scarlet Fever... | 2 | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Enteric Fever... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Puerperal Fever | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pneumonia..... | 10 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 4 | 3 | |
| Encephalitis | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lethargica | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Measles | 3 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whooping C ... | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Totals | 18 | 3 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | | 5 | 3 | |

Case Rates per 1000 living.

| | Horwich. | England and Wales. |
|-----------------------|----------|--------------------|
| Small Pox | 0 | 0·14 |
| Scarlet Fever | 5·4 | 2·36 |
| Diphtheria | 0·55 | 1·23 |
| Enteric Fever | 0 | 0·07 |
| Puerperal Fever | 0·06 | 0·06 |
| Erysipelas..... | 0·37 | 0·39 |

Tuberculosis.

| Age Periods | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|-------------|------------|----|----------------|----|------------|----|----------------|----|
| | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 1 |
| 5 | | | | 3 | | | | 2 |
| 10 | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 |
| 15 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| 20 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | | |
| 25 | 1 | 5 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | |
| 35 | 2 | | | | 1 | | | |
| 45 | | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| 55 | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| 65 and up. | | 1 | | | | | | |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | 5 | 12 | 6 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 |

Of the 13 Tuberculosis deaths 12 were notified. There have been no cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925:

No action has been required under these regulations.

No action has been taken by the Council under Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

Tuberculous schemes and Venereal Diseases are in the hands of the County Council.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

During the past 5 years the Council have maintained and developed their general arrangements for attending to the health of expectant and nursing mothers and of children under 5 years of age. Since 1919 the Council have employed two Health Visitors whose time is fully occupied. Of all their activities, I am of opinion that home visiting is still the most important.

By this means they get in touch with new cases, and encourage attendance at the centre and follow up directions given at the centre. In addition to their ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare work the Health Visitors nurse cases of Measles, Whooping Cough, Pneumonia, Chicken Pox and Ophthalmia. This branch of the work would appear to be the best method of preventing mortality from these diseases.

The Health Visitors investigate all maternal deaths which I am pleased to report are few in number (3 in 5 years). 30 stillbirths and 99 infant deaths have taken place during the 5 years.

The Centre which is established at the Public Hall, Horwich consists of 5 rooms, well lighted and suitable in every way for their purpose. The Centre is open every morning from 9 to 10; Wednesdays, 3 to 5 p.m., and Thursdays, 3 to 5 p.m. The Medical Officer attends every morning and on Thursday afternoons. Help in the weighings and recordings is obtained from members of the Rota Committee, an ardent band of voluntary workers whose kindness and willingness have added to the success of the work.

In March 1925 a second Centre was established at New Chapel. Three good rooms provided. The sessions are held fortnightly the Medical Officer being in attendance. Many mothers who would be unable to make the journey to the main Centre have thus the same advantage as their fellows.

Arrangements have been made during 1925 with the Haslam Maternity Home, Bolton, for the reception of parturient women as inpatients at a charge of £4 4s. per week. The Council contribute towards the cost according to a local scale. Since the arrangements were made to December 31st, 1925, 7 mothers have been admitted.

Expectant mothers visit the main Centre as a rule during the morning hour and see the Medical Officer if required. During 1925 efforts to extend this work have been made and the co-operation of the midwives sought. The latter are sympathetic and mothers are shewing an increasing tendency to avail themselves of the benefits. Urine examinations are made in all cases and pelvimetry and blood pressure tests to those who desire it. I believe that ante natal care will become increasingly popular with expectant mothers as they become educated to what to them is a "new idea." Arrangements have been made with the County Council for the dental treatment of expectant and nursing mothers, also for the orthopædic treatment of children under 5 years of age.

The most amicable relations exist with the School Medical Officer who uses the same rooms for his work.

With the exception of the advantages of the Haslam Maternity Home we have no arrangements in the district for dealing with unmarried mothers and illegitimate children. According to a local scale milk is provided in necessitous cases to expectant and nursing mothers and children under 3 years of age.

As stated above cases of Puerperal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Measles, Whooping Cough, Epidemic Diarrhœa, and other infectious diseases of parturient women, infants and young children are visited by the Health Visitors. The incidence of these diseases is shewn under the heading "Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases."

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during 1925.

The following table gives in tabular form a summary of the Health Visitors work during the period 1921-1925 :

| | 1921 | 1922 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 | Total |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1st visits to children under | | | | | | |
| 1 year | 305 | 260 | 262 | 257 | 242 | 1326 |
| (a) breast fed | 282 | 241 | 249 | 242 | 230 | 1244 |
| (b) artificially fed.. | 23 | 19 | 13 | 15 | 12 | 82 |
| Revisits to children under | | | | | | |
| 1 year | 2189 | 1803 | 2128 | 1973 | 1347 | 9440 |
| Revisits to children over | | | | | | |
| 1 year | 1668 | 1517 | 1479 | 1254 | 1007 | 6925 |
| Antenatal 1st visits | 111 | 58 | 51 | 64 | 61 | 345 |
| „ revisits | 158 | 107 | 101 | 132 | 112 | 610 |
| Pneumonia 1st visits | 80 | 87 | 64 | 48 | 62 | 341 |
| „ revisits..... | 463 | 504 | 484 | 394 | 523 | 2368 |
| Measles 1st visits | 29 | 324 | 22 | 81 | 378 | 834 |
| „ revisits | 88 | 742 | 79 | 127 | 580 | 1616 |
| W'ping Cough 1st visits.. | 47 | 20 | 14 | 31 | 0 | 112 |
| „ revisits ... | 148 | 44 | 22 | 64 | 0 | 278 |
| Ophthalmia 1st visits .. | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 11 |
| „ revisits | 51 | 14 | 34 | 10 | 0 | 109 |

| | 1921 | 1925 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 | Total |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Chicken Pox 1st visits ... | 0 | 0 | 5 | 41 | 139 | 185 |
| „ revisits | 0 | 0 | 14 | 108 | 256 | 378 |
| Malaria 1st visits | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| „ revisits | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Visits to Necessitous Cases | 210 | 62 | 36 | 40 | 34 | 382 |
| Visits to children not born in Horwich | 118 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 130 |
| Attendance at the Public Hall Centre : | | | | | | |
| Wednesdays..... | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 16 | |
| Thursdays | 46 | 42 | 36 | 39 | 32 | |

Whilst discussing the problem of reducing infant disease and mortality the recent experiments of Dr. Edward Mellanby require careful consideration and may foreshadow a great advance in the prevention of disease and mortality in children. These experiments relate to the effect on nutrition of deprivation of fat soluble vitamins from the diet of expectant mothers and young children. The vitamins are contained in such foods as milk, egg yolk, butter, animal and fish fats and especially cod liver oil. Shortly the experiments would tend to prove :

1. That the widespread developement of caries on children's teeth is primarily a problem of defective feeding which results in imperfect formation of their teeth.

2. That the dietetic factors which result in good and bad formation of teeth also confer upon or take away from the erupted teeth of children the power of resistance to the carious process.

3. That foods such as the above, containing the fat soluble vitamin bring about the formation of good teeth, whilst cereals and especially oatmeal in the absence of calcifying vitamin bring about the formation of defectively calcified teeth.

4. That deficiency of the vitamin from the food of children brings about not only defects of dentition but will produce rickets and a general condition of lowered vitality.

5. That children of mothers who are deprived of sufficient vitamin during pregnancy will have a greater tendency to develop rickets and that this tendency in the young is not removed by a period of good post natal diet but may become evident again at a later period of defective feeding.

6. That the same defects in the diet of expectant mothers increase the susceptibility of children to develop Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Diarrhoea and in general to result in lowered vitality.

The practical application of these results has already been carried out to some extent in the diet of young children but it is necessary to extend the teaching to the problem of maternal feeding. Here we have a strong argument showing the importance of ante-natal care. The first effect of proper maternal feeding would probably show itself by reducing the infant mortality of children under one month of age, just that portion of the mortality which is at present most difficult to make an impression upon. Further if Mellanby's suggestions and results are true it would result in great improvement in the physique of children. It would increase the resistance of infants to Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Diarrhoea and all the other sequelae so generally likely to follow. It would certainly result in a better grown and less rickety type of child and would do something also to improve the structure of the teeth and thereby to reduce the appalling amount of caries in the teeth of young children. It would probably also bring about improvement in the general health of the pregnant woman and do away with some of the unfortunate experiences to which she is liable.

It will thus be seen that steady progress has been made in the development of schemes for the improvement in the public health during the period under review. Noteworthy achievements may be summarized as follows :

1. Abolition of ashpits and substitution of dust bins throughout the district.
2. Provision of new water supply.
3. Provision of public Cemetery.
4. Removal of refuse by motor traction in place of horses.
5. Extension of activities under Child Welfare schemes, including provision of new Centre at New Chapel, development of ante natal work.
6. Completion of housing scheme at Lower Brazley and institution of a still larger undertaking on the Hilton Estate.

7. Extension of Council's sewers to Factory Hill, Brinks and Harts Houses districts.
8. Extension of water mains.
9. Completion of the paving of Purl Brook.
10. Continuance of paving of back streets.
11. Provision of playing fields on Hilton Estate and public park on Ridgmont Estate.

From the text of the report it is plain that the most pressing problem awaiting your attention is the development of your building schemes on the Hilton Estate in order to meet the grave question of overcrowding. Encouragement should be given to the farmers to improve the milk supply by applying for licences for the sale of milk under special designations, classified as in the Fourth Schedule to the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923. If a few farmers would do this it would tend to make the others improve their methods and eventually come into line. The public should refuse to buy anything but "clean milk."

In order to safeguard your meat supply I would again ask you to consider the question of providing a public abattoir. The Council might also take into consideration the possibility of contributing towards the cost of abolishing the waste water closets in the district and substituting the much more sanitary fresh water system.

The question of the installation of ultra violet therapy at your centre is coming rapidly to the fore. There is no doubt from reports received from all parts of the country that great benefit is accruing to children and mothers from this form of treatment. The cost of installation is small and I would urge that the matter be taken in hand at an early date.

For reasons stated earlier in the report the development of ante natal activities should tend to produce more healthy and robust constitutions in the young life of the town, besides making the lot of the mothers easier and happier.

In conclusion I wish to heartily thank all members of the Council and my fellow officials for their cordial support during the past 5 years in all measures tending towards the advancement of public health. Your mortality rates compare very favourably with those of the rest of the country and I feel sure that your efforts have not been in vain."

J. S. Sewell

